

# U.S. TRIES TO LURE DESERTERS FROM SWEDEN

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*Last of a series*

Stockholm

As the number of American military deserters in Sweden increases, so do efforts by the U.S. government to arrest the trend—all with the help of the army, the CIA and the U.S. Embassy here.

Several members of the American Deserters Committee (ADC) told this reporter they had been followed and then offered bribes if they would "defect." "Open and covert threats of kidnapping lately have become common," one of them told me.

Sometimes weeping parents will telephone their sons in Sweden from army bases in the U.S., with false tales of family tragedies, and beg them to "come home." Another of the military's gimmicks has been to send young men to Sweden from bases in Germany posing as deserters. Their role is to divide the ADC into factions and to worsen its relations with Swedish political groups.

Most of these efforts to sabotage the ADC have been unsuccessful, and so far only one deserter has returned to take his punishment from the army. But that one deserter was a ready-made target and all the publicity given his defection by the press in the U.S. and abroad proved the U.S. government made the right choice.

Ray Jones is black. He was one of the first deserters to come to Sweden, in early 1967, and in a short time he had made a place for himself in Swedish society. He had a successful business—a jazz ballet studio—and was married to a German girl who knew several languages and worked as a translator. But on March 12 Jones, his wife and baby left Sweden to return to army headquarters at Frankfurt, where he was to serve a four-month sentence—considered very light by those who know army procedure.

## 'Money did it'

In an article published two weeks later in a Swedish magazine, Jones claimed he had not known racism in the U.S. because he grew up in a well-to-do family in Michigan. He was inducted into the army in February, 1966, but he was against the Vietnam war because he "disliked the killing of thousands of Vietnamese civilians." He was sent to Germany in July and six months later he and his wife went to Sweden. "It was not the United States I wanted to desert from. I love my country and I would be happy to fight for it in a just war," Jones said in the article.

"While I have been in Europe I have started to understand what whites do to Negroes," Jones continued in the article.

There is racism in Sweden. Swedes have a race hatred against Negroes and

are using American deserters to discredit the United States in the eyes of the world."

"Money really did it," said Donald Williams, a black deserter who is co-chairman of ADC (see Guardian, June 8). The ADC heard that Jones was being paid \$1,000 a week by the army while serving his prison term in Frankfurt. Williams said he also heard that Jones had tried to commit suicide twice while in jail.

"He has seen where he's betrayed the black brothers' trust in him," Williams said. "I have a message for my black brothers in the States: Beware of Ray Jones. He has turned against us once. Don't take any confidence from him—he'll put you in a trick bag."

Another incident that received a lot of publicity in the U.S. was explained to me by a member of the ADC which refers to it as "the Jerum affair."

"On the evening of March 17 the major news agencies reported that the newly appointed consul to the American Embassy in Stockholm, Merle Arp, had been 'assaulted, robbed and questioned' by a group of students in the student house Jerum. The American consul for political affairs, Jerome Holloway, reported that Arp had been called to Jerum to speak with two army deserters who said they had decided to return to duty but that when he arrived he only found a dozen students."

"What has been called a provocation against the consul actually was a defense measure taken by the deserters against the manhunt which had been initiated by the CIA and other agents. This persecution is being carried out on Swedish territory against persons who have been granted asylum by the Swedish government.

"These agents' activity caused such unrest among the deserters that we decided to expose them. So on March 15 some of us telephoned a man in London we suspected of being an agent and told him we were

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